

## ARMIES ON THE AISNE EXHAUSTED AFTER SIX DAYS FIGHTING; AUSTRIANS RALLY BEHIND THE SAN; MAUBEUGE'S FALL CONFIRMED

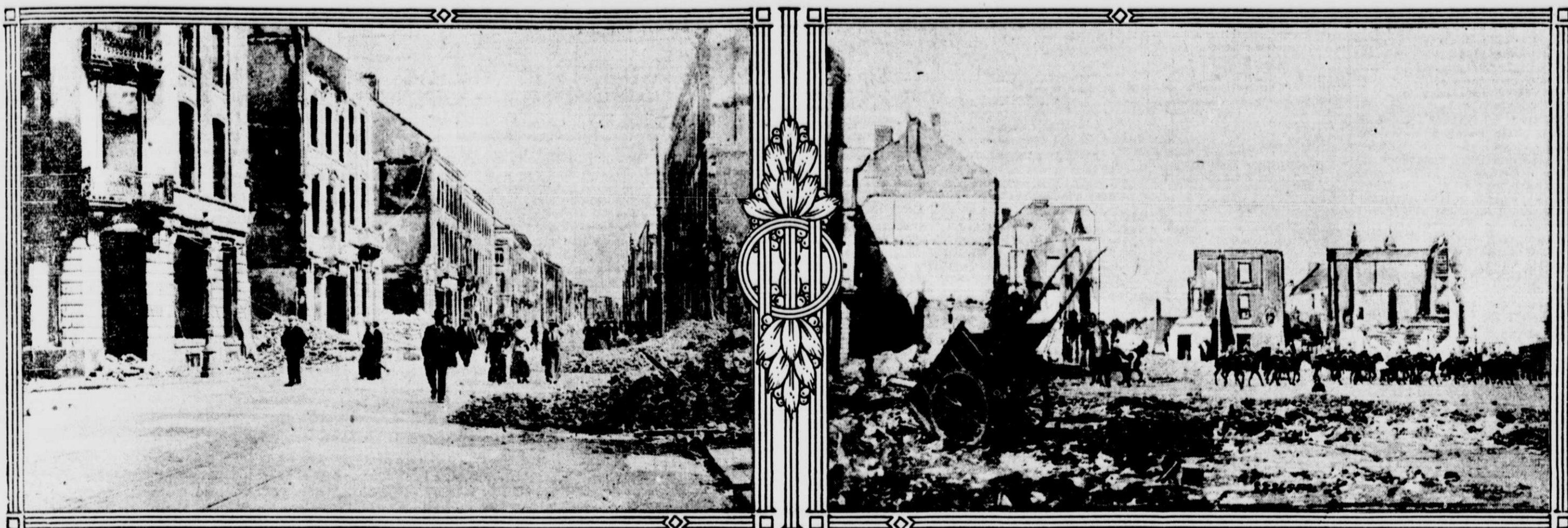


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SCENES IN LOUVAIN AFTER IT HAD BEEN OCCUPIED AND THEN BURNED BY THE GERMANS

The fashionable Rue de la Station, after the fire had swept from end to end. Hardly one house escaped and many were pillaged.

Ruins of the celebrated University of Louvain, of which only the walls are standing. A detachment of German cavalry is riding across the ground.

### Germans Took Maubeuge on Sept. 7, London Hears

French Stronghold Surrendered After Twelve Days of Desperate Fighting—Army Used in Siege Reinforced Troops on Aisne.

GERMANS ANNOUNCED FALL HERE ON SEPT. 9

Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN.  
London, September 18.  
The Times correspondent at Boulogne announces the fall of Maubeuge in the following despatch:  
"Maubeuge fell on September 7. The investment began on August 25. On August 26 the first shell was fired. On August 27 the main attack was concentrated on the forts to the north and east of the city.  
"Fort de Boussois, des Sarts and de Cerfontaine and the earthworks of Reu were destroyed by heavy artillery.  
"The town suffered severely from the bombardment, which continued with great violence for twelve days. More than a thousand shells fell in one night near the railway station and the Rue de France was partly destroyed. The loss of life, however, was comparatively slight.  
"At 11:30 o'clock on the morning of September 7 a white flag was hoisted on the church tower and trumpets sounded 'cease firing,' but the firing only ceased at 3 o'clock that afternoon. In the meantime the greater part of the garrison succeeded in leaving the town. The German forces marched in at 7 o'clock that evening."

**CITY BADLY BATTERED.**  
By Central News of London.  
Amsterdam, Sept. 18.—Your correspondent has succeeded in reaching Maubeuge.  
Numerous German guards were posted on all the roads leading to Maubeuge and there was ample evidence that a great battle had taken place. Great holes had been torn in the roads and fields around the forts by shells.  
There were extensive intrenchments and entanglements of barbed wire. Dead horses were still lying in the streets. The townspeople were already repairing and cleaning the houses damaged by the bombardment. Germans everywhere were guarding the equipment taken from the French soldiers.  
The German troops stormed the city after a siege. The correspondent was told that the French infantry fired too high and that as a result the German losses were relatively small and occurred mostly in the rear lines. The German advance apparently was well executed.  
The bombardment destroyed large factories and many houses and a part of the walls surrounding the town.  
During the last few days Germans from Laage have passed Maubeuge, going to reinforce the troops in northern France. The people in the neighborhood are outwardly calm, but are inwardly shocked by the news of the devastation and death wrought by the Germans.

**SIGNS POINT TO FALL.**

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.  
Paris, Sept. 18.—The Echo de Paris says that the Germans are able to receive reinforcements from the Maubeuge region.  
The troops which were left there have evidently fulfilled their mission and the German heavy artillery which was used there may be brought hence. Such reinforcements, however, the Echo de Paris says, are fully balanced by those received by the allies.  
The absence of news from Maubeuge seems to confirm the suggestion of the Echo de Paris that the fortress has fallen.  
**ANNOUNCED ON SEPT. 9.**  
The German Embassy at Washington gave out this wireless despatch on September 9:  
"General Headquarters report that Maubeuge has fallen; 400 guns, four Generals and 40,000 prisoners were captured.  
"Since that time the French War Office on various occasions has announced that no confirmation of the reported fall of the fortress had been received. The French authorities said that the defending force at the city was not a half of the figures given by the Germans as having been captured.  
"On September 16 the London Standard's correspondent, telegraphing from Bordeaux, said:  
"When I left the vicinity of the town (Maubeuge) on September 11 it was still holding out."  
The Standard's correspondent said that each of the seven forts in use had a garrison of 210 men when the city was invested on August 25, but that the casualties in some cases had been heavy since that time. The investment was carried out, he said, by a force of 10,000 Germans.  
**BIG AID TO GERMANY.**  
The capture of Maubeuge is of great importance to the Germans, as it releases to them a force which has been variously estimated at from fifty to seventy-five thousand for action along the Aisne. It also gives them a strongly fortified position on the Franco-Belgian frontier which may be useful in separating the allied forces. It also removes a much feared menace to their line of communication through Belgium, Luxembourg and the north of France.  
Maubeuge is situated on the main highway from Mons and southern Belgium into central France. It is also on the railroad from Paris to Namur, Brussels and Cologne, and on a smaller railway which runs from the city to the Belgian frontier.  
The fortress was a fortress of the first class on the second line of defense along the northeastern border of France. The town lay on both sides of the Sambre, not more than five miles from the Belgian frontier, and had a population of about 22,000, most of whom were engaged in the various metal manufacturing industries.  
Its defenses were built around the old enceinte of Maubeuge, and were constructed for the most part after the Franco-Prussian war, but since increased and improved. The outer defenses lay within a perimeter of eighteen miles, and consisted of Forts des Sarts, de Leveau and Salengne on the north, of Boussols on the Sambre to the east, and of de Cerfontaine, de Haumont and du Bourdieu on the south.

### RUSSIANS HURL BACK AUSTRIAN ARMY ON SAN

Great Battle Is Raging Fifty Miles West of Lemberg.

ST. PETERSBURG SAYS  
VICTORY IS CERTAIN

**Russia Bids Austrian Peoples Accept Liberty**  
By Central News of London.  
St. Petersburg, Sept. 17 (Delayed).—Grand Duke Nicholas, Commander in Chief of the Russian army, issued a proclamation today to all the peoples of Austria-Hungary promising liberty and a participation of their national ideals.  
The proclamation is printed in nine languages and is now being distributed in Galicia.  
Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN.  
St. Petersburg, September 18.  
The Russian War Ministry summarizes the movements of the Russian armies in the following official statement issued to-night:  
"On September 17 Gen. Rennenkampf definitely arrested the German offensive in East Prussia. The Germans are retreating at several points and are changing their positions.  
"The pursuit of the Austrians continues. The Russians are approaching Sinalava, Jaroslavl and Przemysl."  
London, September 18.  
A great battle is being fought along the San River southwest of Przemysl and fifty miles west of Lemberg.  
Upon the outcome of this battle depends Russia's ability to carry the war into Silesia. A great Russian army under the victorious Gen. Ruzsky and Brusiloff is endeavoring to complete earlier triumphs against Gen. Von Auffenberg and Dankl.  
The Austrians by one of the most desperate retreats in history have been able to preserve the remains of forces battered at Lemberg and Tomaszow and concentrated along the San, are making a final stand against the Russians. Reports from Russian, Austrian and German sources together with despatches from Rome indicate that the Austrian armies are again at bay.  
Their tactics are directed by strategists of the German General Staff, hurriedly sent to Galicia after pressing appeals from Vienna. The lines of defense around Przemysl have been arranged by the Germans, who have assumed responsibility. There is news that several German army corps have been united with the battered Austrian armies and that the situation from the Austro-German standpoint is more hopeful.  
Retreating from the Lemberg district.

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### WAR NEWS IN BRIEF

**FRANCE.**—The official communique from Paris last night said that the French left wing had gained some advantage and also that the battle is not now so intense. French military experts agree that the battle of the Aisne is more momentous than the battle of the Marne; that it will be the most important engagement of the war and that the result will have a great effect in clearing up the situation.  
Gen. Joffre has notified the War Office that the Anglo-French forces are making satisfactory progress in their offensive operations. The Germans are maintaining a strong position on the north of the Aisne and they are also strongly intrenched above Chalons, which is the southernmost point of their line.  
Maubeuge, which had been besieged by the Germans since August 25, fell on September 7. It is now admitted. This relieved the French besieging force for action elsewhere and also removed a serious menace to German communication from the north.  
**GERMANY.**—An official statement issued by the German General Staff announced that the great battle now waging is still without decisive results, but that there were evidences of German gains and indications that the French offensive is gradually losing its force.  
The French effort to penetrate the German right failed, as did also the French sallies from their fortified position at Verdun.  
The statement asserts that the situation in its entirety is satisfactory from the German viewpoint.  
**RUSSIA.**—The Russian force that has been operating in Galicia has crossed the San and is engaging the Austrians in a battle fifty miles west of Lemberg. They have left a small force to besiege Przemysl. A new Russian army of 300,000 men is about to march through Russian Poland with the intention of joining the army from Galicia in the advance through Silesia toward Berlin.  
A despatch from St. Petersburg says that the German troops have been frustrated in their attempts to surround Gen. Rennenkampf and that the failure of this movement has completely upset the German schemes in East Prussia.  
**AUSTRIA.**—Ambassador Dumba in a formal statement protested emphatically against the reports sent out from London, Rome, Milan, Geneva, Copenhagen and St. Petersburg about the Austrian campaign in Russian Poland and Galicia.  
He denies that the Austrian losses have been as heavy as reported. On the other hand, he says that the General Staff of the Dual Monarchy announces as a result of four weeks fighting the capture of 41,000 Russian prisoners and 300 guns.  
**GREAT BRITAIN.**—King George in proroguing Parliament announced that the war will be continued until the purpose of British endeavor is achieved. He said that from every part of the empire there has been a spontaneous and enthusiastic rally to the British flag. Sir Gilbert Parker says in an article that peace will be signed only when the allies have entered Berlin.  
**WASHINGTON.**—President Wilson is barred from taking further steps in the way of peace at this time by the character of the replies he has received from the belligerents. He is now placed in a delicate position, which will not permit him to press a self-initiated peace proposal upon either side without laying this Government open to the suspicion of acting in the interest of either one side or the other, thus really departing from a strictly neutral attitude. The belief is that the President must wait until he has some definite overture from either side.

**Boys Called Out by Three Nations**  
Austrian Emperor Weeps as He Signs Decree Drafting Youths Under 20.  
Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN.  
VIENNA, via Rome, Sept. 18 (Delayed).—The Government to-day ordered a levy en masse, including the disqualified recruits of previous years and youths less than 20 years of age.  
Emperor Francis Joseph wept as he signed the decree. He said nothing in all his life and caused him more sorrow.  
London, Sept. 18.—The Bordeaux correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph Company says that there are boys of less than 16 years of age in the German ranks and that he saw one wounded German soldier in the hospital at Bordeaux who was 15 years and 9 months old.  
Bordeaux, via Paris, Sept. 18.—The French Government issued a decree to-day permitting the mother or legal guardian of youths under 20 years of age to authorize their enlistment in the war in the absence of the father, and in the case of the death of the mother or guardian empower the local Magistrate to give the authorization.

### Allied Armies Continue Advance on Left Wing

Main Portion of Troops on Both Sides Halt to Repair Losses After Terrific Onslaught—Germans Still Hold Strong Position.

EFFORT RENEWED TO DISLODGE CROWN PRINCE

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.  
Paris, September 18 (Midnight).  
The armies of the nations are deadlocked north of the River Aisne after the most terrible artillery duel of the centuries.  
Sheer exhaustion and frightful losses have checked assaults and counter assaults all along the battle line from north of Noyon to Etain. To-night the armies of Germans and allies, after incessant fighting for six days and six nights, are seeking rest and repairing losses.  
Whatever of advantage has been gained along the Aisne in the past twenty-four hours rests with the allies, but the successes have been indecisive and the Germans are massing again for a stronger attack than ever against the French centre.  
On the west of the battle line the English and French have forced the army of Gen. von Kluck to give way in places. The German centre, now very powerful, was thrown back three times in its attempt to recapture Reims and break the French centre. On the east of the main line of battle, at Montfaucon, the Germans are standing rigidly.  
The French people, awaiting with calmness a decisive outcome, accept the moderate statement of the Government to-night that the situation of the allies is favorable.

rairie and the Vosges, the enemy occupies positions organized on a defensive basis in the vicinity of the frontier.  
Every fragment of news from the front makes it positive that the allies are facing a more difficult situation than that which existed along the Marne. The Germans have been heavily reinforced. They are strongly intrenched along a vast battle line. Their great resources of artillery are operated in many places from wooded heights and the location of batteries has been shrewdly concealed. There is every indication that the armies of the Kaiser are ready once more for a powerful offensive movement, and a disaster in any part of the allies' line, particularly in the centre, would permit the gray wave to roll southward.  
The most impressive reports of the six days battle, still so evenly balanced, are that it is a combat of artillery. Day and night thousands of German cannon hammer at the allied armies, while every gun that the French and English can bring to bear is directed toward attempting to silence these destructive guns. In lulls of artillery fighting the allies have assaulted the German positions and have been able here and there to gain ground, but only at dreadful cost. The fighting at Reims between infantry and cavalry followed three days of incessant artillery duelling. The Germans, believing, they could break the French centre by a counter assault, essayed three times to recapture Reims and were each time hurled back.  
**Fighting Continues All Night.**  
There has been desperate fighting to the north of Chalons, where the Germans are strongly intrenched. At that point, where the German line loops to the south, the allies endeavored unsuccessfully to storm the German position. The German artillery was operated from double lines of embankments twenty rods apart, while the German infantry was protected by trenches three and four feet deep.  
Everywhere from the Oise to the Argonne the fighting has been pressed at night, and searchlights have been used by the Germans in an attempt to deceive the allies as to battery positions.  
The German line now forms an immense obtuse angle, the right point north of Noyon, the middle point just north of Chalons, the left point at Montfaucon. In spite of the daily assaults upon their position they have been able to raise strong intrenchments along most of this line where they were not protected by the topography of the country. The nature of the allies' operations for the past week has been a series of artillery actions against these fortified lines in an attempt to breach them for the assault of infantry. The progress of the allies has been necessarily slow, but there appears to be no reason for pessimism. The commander

### Spain's Plan to Enter War Seen

Wants to Buy \$10,000,000 Worth of Machinery in U. S. for "Public Works."

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 18.—The Spanish Government has entered the American market for the immediate delivery of upward of \$10,000,000 worth of ordnance and rifle-making machinery, a vast variety of dredging machines, concrete mixers, conveying machines and excavators, locomotives and stone crushers.  
While secret inquiries received here to-day indicate that the erection of "important public works" is intended, it is confidently believed the Madrid officials really contemplate the preparation of war materials and the building of powerful fortifications.  
The inquiries were made by a large Madrid contracting firm directly representing the Spanish Government. The names of all the American concerns which could furnish the materials desired were requested.  
**Famous Chateau Not Damaged.**  
Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.  
PARIS, Sept. 18.—It is officially reported that the famous chateau at Chantilly was not damaged by the Germans.